

NOTES FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT VALVERDE BC
ON FRIDAY 11th June 2010

Present:

Gordon Linford (Chairman)

Gui Gomes (Club Captain)

Tom Sanderson (Vice Captain)

Jan McGlynn (Secretary)

Jeff Perry (Treasurer)

Margaret Linford (Social Secretary)

Terry Kerr (Fiscal Committee)

Gordon opened the meeting at 10.05 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Report on the Green: Gordon said he is not happy with the state of the green at the moment and has had a meeting with Gordie of Jardim Vista who has promised he will give instructions to his staff and will send us a weekly report on work planned. This report to be put on our notice board and it is hoped that they will carry out these planned works. Gui said there might not be a need to close the green this month. Gui also said he intended to leave the Jardim Vista garden file in the club house. Regarding keys for the irrigation, Gui has Emailed the address to JV, as to where they can be purchased.

Tom said he had cut the rough area on the bank but said the nursery area looks as though it has not been watered, but thinks this grass could be recovered and utilised if looked after. The water supply to this area needs sorting out. Jeff said JV have agreed to do 140€ of extra work and one of these tasks could be bringing the nursery area back into use. Jeff and Gui will see JV after this meeting Jeff said we have agreed another year's contract with JV from June, to be paid on a quarterly basis. Some discussion followed on the feasibility of employing another contractor to manage the ground. It was decided that if things do not improve with JV's work, we should seek another contractor. Gui may know a suitable person, and will report back.

2. Membership Fees: Jeff said he did not propose any change to membership fees. For renewals: it is not necessary to complete the form again, but for new members this is still necessary. Membership can now start at any time of the year and the membership card will give the expiry date.

3. Meeting with Terry Kerr/Fiscal Committee Report: Terry had several items regarding VVBC he wished to raise. Some discussion took place regarding a point in the VV Constitution, which Terry understood to include inspecting the administration by the Fiscal Committee. The Constitution was consulted which indeed indicated this point. Terry asked the Committee if he was correct in his interpretation, otherwise the Constitution would need to be amended at the AGM. Gui said it was not expected that the Fiscal Committee would direct the main Committee. Jeff confirmed that the Fiscal Committee monitored his work as Treasurer. Tom said he believed the duty of the Fiscal Committee was to indeed monitor the financial side of the club and if necessary make recommendations. Jeff said daily cash receipts which had been recommended and adopted were a good example. It was vital when preparing budgets etc. that this sort of information is to hand. Terry then raised the subject of communications. He believed clarity and transparency were important. Gui said there were certain items which need to be kept within the committee. Jan agreed with this, and said there were certain items she felt should not be divulged, i.e. the legalization of the green, and problems arising from this. This subject was further discussed.

Terry brought up the subject of the skills of some club members and thought we should harness these, e.g. some members had carried out excellent work for the club, especially around the green. Jeff said that we do tend to this whenever possible.

Terry said he felt that suggestions put forward by bowlers, were not always taken into consideration. Tom said he could assure Terry that suggestions were always dealt with in Committee. Terry said we should encourage suggestions either verbal or made in writing and discussed at the next meeting. Jan said she usually put a notice on the board, prior to Committee meetings, inviting items for discussion at the next meeting. Jeff suggested a future Agenda item should be for “suggestions”, which should be in writing and will be discussed.

Members Meetings: Terry said the only meetings for members were the AGM’s. He believed the reasons why AGM’s sometimes get unpleasant, is because members do not have any other opportunity to “let off steam”. Terry said if we do not have periodic meetings, this will continue to be the case. Suggested that every couple of months, maybe after the roll up games, members be asked to put forward any particular concerns they have which could be brought up at Committee. All items to be put in writing. Everyone was in agreement with quarterly meetings and it was suggested these be on Fridays, starting on 3rd September.

Management Committee minutes: Terry concerned that these are not circulated efficiently. Gordon said he was concerned about the large number of people on the circulation list, but Jeff confirmed that he had now prepared a list of “just members”, and that minutes are always put on the website. It was agreed transparency was of prime importance, and anyone, outside our Club, could access the website at any time to view the minutes. Some discussion followed on the feasibility of the password system, which was considered not viable.

Bowls Algarve meetings: Terry concerned about the secrecy surrounding BA meetings, and said we were all paid up members of BA and no minutes or accounts were available, and there were no invitations to AGM’s. Jeff said he intended to bring this subject up at the last BA meeting, but unfortunately this had had to be cancelled. Jeff said he had started up a BA website on which he thought the BA minutes could perhaps be displayed. Jeff said BA is an Association of Clubs and not individuals. Terry said decisions were being made on behalf of bowlers, which we do not know about – he thought this unacceptable. He thought the AGM should be open to all. Jeff explained that if there were any points raised at BA meetings that required the involvement of the VVBC, these would be referred back to the Committee. Jan suggested a future Agenda item, whereby anything relevant discussed at BA meetings could be aired.

Terry said we should be proud of the number of members we have, and felt this should be displayed on the notice board. Jeff Perry thought this was impractical as these numbers changed frequently. Jan suggested maybe this could be put into the regular newsletter. This was agreed.

Match Invitation list: Terry felt bowlers should be informed of future touring team lists well in advance, and felt the present system did not give bowlers enough notice. He proposed this should be put on the website and notice board. After some discussion it was agreed that there be no change from the present system.

Terry thought we were a unique club, in that we were owned by the members and he felt this should be published and perhaps a notice put over the door to the clubhouse. No-one in agreement with this.

Terry raised the “history of the club” section on the website and queried the Full Members’ benefits regarding team selection. It was clarified in that this was only in respect of tour sides, not league games. It had been agreed that PAYP members, do not get the same benefits as Full Members

Terry addressed the question of posts for re-election at the AGM. Nominations should be invited at least 3 weeks in advance. Posts: Vice President of the AGM, Secretary of the AGM, Treasurer of the Management Committee, Vice Captain of the Club, Secretary of the Fiscal Committee and Social Secretary. Jeff said 6 officials need to get re-elected at the next AGM: nominations should be invited. He said an Assistant Treasurer should be appointed also.

4. Accumulator: Jeff has published some proposed rules for this which is planned to run in September.

5. Keeping the Green tidy: This is a subject of some concern, as litter has been left around the green. Gordon has spoken with some bowlers about the disposal of rubbish. The present bins were full and no-one seems to be taking any responsibility for emptying them. Gordon has brought some bin bags for this purpose. Gui thought it should be the responsibility of the Committee to take action. Jeff said in his next newsletter he would highlight this point of keeping the area tidy.

6. Gardening: Gordon thanked Terry and his gardeners for making such a good job of the garden area and for Tom for strimming the bank. Terry returns to the UK on 24th June but returns in mid September and felt someone should be appointed to carry out the control of weeds etc. in his absence. Jeff agreed to ask for volunteers in his next newsletter. Terry suggested four 8 x 10 edging slabs be put around the green to stop water rushing away during heavy rain which could result in our recent woodchip application being affected. It was thought that any visual work of this type, should not be done, until we had the long awaited paperwork from the Camara. This item to be discussed at the next meeting. Terry said he felt sure there would some club members who would do this kind of work.

7. Christmas Celebrations: Margaret has enquired of the Garbe Hotel, and the cost is 68€ for 2 nights B&B, with Christmas dinner. Margaret asked Jeff if he would put this on the website to inform members. The Social Committee had been thinking about running a "Christmas Club" for saving for the Christmas event, i.e. €10 p.w. Margaret said someone like DJ or Julie could maybe take on this, and hand Funds to Jeff. A receipt book would be necessary. Jeff said he would put this into the newsletter to gain interest. A notice to be put on the board also.

8. Financial Arrangements for the summer: Jeff said he would be away from 15th June to 29th August. David Russell will act as Treasurer in his absence, and he will be left with some cheques which will need to be countersigned. He will be collecting gate monies and bank them. David Laing will be away, and David Russell will be taking on his duties. Regarding the monthly payments to Jorge, Gordon has been given the cheques for Jorge

9. AOB: Tom said he is struggling to find volunteers to man the Tuesday and Thursday green opening days and wonders with the hotter months of July and August, it would be wise to put this on hold for the moment. Contact numbers to be put on the notice board, in case anyone wants to book the green on these days. Jeff will put Gui's contact number on the door.

Banner: Jan said David Hills are providing this, and it should be available shortly.

Sponsor: Tom said he may have a possible sponsor for a future event. It was thought however that we were not asking sponsors for sufficient money, but Jan said in this economic climate it was debatable whether we could ask the smaller firms to pay higher sponsor fees. Gui said we had some good trophies for all events. Gui said he was concerned that keys to the clubhouse were not being returned and it was thought there should be more control over the issuing of the keys. Jeff agreed to put this item in his next newsletter and ask for keys to be returned.

Jeff said Lawrence Boni had Emailed to say he would be back at the end of June. Gui said he will empty the postbox in Jeff's absence. Green closure: we have agreed dates for June and July.

Portaloo: Jeff said he intended to ask the company to service it every month, however, Terry volunteered to ask them to come and service it. It will be cheaper if they do this, when their service personnel are in the area.

Bowls Algarve: Jeff said he had started a Bowls Algarve Website at Connie's request, and was moving some of the relevant information from our website to BA website. Regarding BA meetings, Jeff said there was to have been meeting last Tuesday, 8th, which was cancelled. This will be rescheduled. There was a special meeting a few weeks ago, specifically to discuss the World Bowls situation. A letter had been received from World Bowls to all the clubs in the Algarve, stating that in their opinion, everyone should join Bowls Portugal, re-elect a new Committee and bring it into line with what WB want. Bowls Algarve intend to set up a working group to which representatives from all clubs will be invited to take part. A meeting is to be set up with the Sports Institute and with the assistance of their lawyer, a new Constitution and Statutes will be created, which will be sent to World Bowls for approval. Representatives from each club will go to the meeting with the Institute of Sports. A long discussion followed about this item, and the future participation of clubs under the umbrella of Bowls Algarve/Bowls Portugal.

10. Date of next meeting: Friday, July 2nd at 10.00 a.m.